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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/616,730	07/10/2003	Osamu Nonaka	OOCL-139 (6MHA-03S0729)	2756
26479	7590	01/12/2004	EXAMINER	
STRAUB & POKOTYLO 620 TINTON AVENUE BLDG. B, 2ND FLOOR TINTON FALLS, NJ 07724			PERKEY, WILLIAM B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2851	

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/616,730	NONAKA, OSAMU
	Examiner William B. Perkey	Art Unit 2851

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1-7 and 29 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 8,9,12,17,19,21 and 23 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 10,11,13-16,18,20,22 and 24-28 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 10 July 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 071003.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 8,9,12,19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hagiwara (U.S. Patent No. 5,950,022).

Hagiwara discloses an operating section as the rotary dial and those steps of the program which provides for selection of the focus mode after operating button 18; an auto focus section as those steps of the program which results in the automatic focusing of the lens; a switching section as the rotary dial and those steps of the program for selecting the area for focus operation after operating button 13; and a control section that includes the buttons 13 and 18 and those steps of the program that determine whether operation of the rotary dial selects the area for focus operation or selects the focus mode.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 7, 17,21,23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hagiwara (U.S. Patent No. 5,950,022 in view of Official Notice.

Hagiwara shows the claimed invention, as explained above, except for a manual focus mode. Official Notice (MPEP 2144.03) is taken that it was well known at the time of applicant's invention for a camera to be selectively operable in an automatic and a manual focus mode. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include a manual mode of focus operation among the plurality of focus modes disclosed by Hagiwara in column 5 lines 29-35 in order to obtain the desirable feature of providing a more versatile camera.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-7 and 29 are allowed. Claims 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24-28 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The primary reason for allowance of claims 1-7 is the claim limitation selecting either a first or second candidate point in accordance with a detected state of a switch. The primary reason for allowance of claims 25, 27, 29 is the claim limitation for the instruction being for selection of the in-focus position after start of auto-focus operation. The primary reason for allowance of claims 11, 12, 13-16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28 is the particular rule set forth in claims 11-13.

Claim Objections

6. Claims 21-24 objected to because of the following informalities: The second occurrence of the word "to" in line 3 of claims 21-24 should be deleted. Appropriate correction is required.

Telephone Numbers

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William B. Perkey whose telephone number is (703) 308-1708. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Russ Adams can be reached on (703) 308-2847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



William B. Perkey
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2851

WBP:wpb